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**Hoosier Valley  
Railroad Museum, Inc.**



December 11, 2003

Natalie S. Rosenberg, Senior Counsel  
500 Water St – J150  
Jacksonville FL 32202

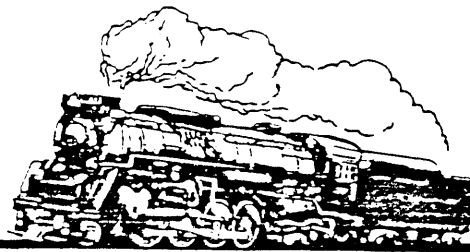
Dear Ms. Rosenberg,

Enclosed is a copy of a letter, which was delivered to the Surface Transportation Board today December 11, 2003 via US Express Mail. We, the board of directors at Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum, wanted to express our thoughts on the matter of the proposed abandonment of the 32.97-mile Wabash Subdivision, Chicago Div. *STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 643X)*

Thank you,

Mark W. Knebel  
Secretary, Board of Directors  
Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum  
574-946-6499

**P.O. Box 75, North Judson, IN 46366**



## **Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum, Inc.**



December 10, 2003

Mr. Vernon A Williams, Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
Mercury Building  
1925 K Street NW  
Washington DC 20006

**Re: STB Docket No. AB-55 (Sub-No. 643X)  
CSX Transportation, Inc – Abandonment  
32.97 mile Wabash Subdivision, Chicago Div.,  
LaPorte, Porter and Starke Counties, Indiana**

Dear Secretary Williams,

Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum Inc., a not-for-profit operating railroad museum located in North Judson, Indiana, (Starke County) wishes to weigh in on the above matter before your board. It is the position of HVRM that all due consideration be given to alternatives that may allow the continued existence and potential use of the railroad line in question.

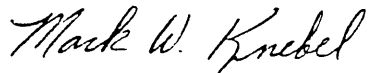
Once the railroad line is removed, all future potential economic and tourism benefits of the railroad line will be forever gone. Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum and the rural North Judson community will lose a practicable and economic mode of transportation, isolating the area from any type of development and usage that the railroad line might afford. Many of our rural communities are forever doomed to achieve their full potential when the "railroad" option of transportation is forever removed.

No railroad traffic now originates out of North Judson, due to the discontinue of service and recent abandonment authority on the JK Line Inc., (*Docket No. AB-847 Sub-No. 1X*) (*Docket No. AB-856 Sub-No. 1X*) (*Between North Judson and Monterey in Starke and Pulaski Counties, IN.*) There is however, the establishment of a new industrial park in North Judson. Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum has the abilities and desire to establish a tourist train operation over a segment of the railroad line, but most important is the desire to see a "railroad" connection to the outside world remain a viable option.

**P.O. Box 75, North Judson, IN 46366**

North Judson being on the eastern leg of the railroad line, there are currently two customers on the western leg of the rail line, Bruder Fertilizer, Inc., at LaCrosse and the LaPorte County Co-op grain facility at Malden. The railroad line crosses two Class 1 railroads on its northern leg, one being Norfolk Southern at Thomaston, and one of CSX's other lines at Hanna, before continuing northward another 6 miles to a CSX mainline connection at Wellsboro. There exist alternative potential connection-interchange points with other mainlines along the railroad line. The possibilities exist to operate a leaner, but yet viable railroad asset for the whole area in question.

Thank you,



Mark W. Knebel  
Secretary, Board of Directors  
Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum

Attachment:

Wabash Sub Map